Health, Manpower, Planning, Production and management, requirement of Nurses in India by the year 2001 A.D. will be 6.64 lakhs. There were 5.12 lakhs Nurses registered with the Indian Nursing Council upto December, 1994.

(b) Under the current Five year Plan the Central Government is implementing a scheme for the strengthening of Nursing services in the country, under which 10 schools of Nursing have been sanctioned during 1994-95 and 1995-96 in different States.

(c) 17 General Nursing Schools are functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Proposals received from different States are considered, keeping in mind overall availability of resources and the commitment of the States to sustain the projects. There are no such proposals under consideration of Central Government in respect of Madhya Pradesh State during 1996-97.

[English]

Food and Drug Adulteration Act

4664. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have appointed a Task Force to suggest modification in Food and Drug Adulteration Act and in its implementation;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations and suggestions made by the Task Force;

(c) whether the Government have accepted these recommendations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELEFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The need to amend the prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 had been raised by various Associations including the food processing industry. A Task Force comprising eminent jurists, legal and technical experts was set up and coordinated by the Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry. The Task Force reviewed the framework of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules thereunder in the context of present day needs. The main recommendations relate to the infrastructure required to implement the food laws, adequacy of equipment in the laboratories; personnel employed for analysis, licensing of vendors, development of sound industrial practices and strengthening of the Prevention of Food Adulteration division. Amendments to the existing laws have also been suggested.

(c) and (d) Government have initiated action to obtain comments of state Government us the report of the Task Force.

[Translation]

Foundation Stone for Bridge

4665. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation stone for the construction of bridge over Chambal river to connect Pinahat in district Agra with Ambah in district Muraina;

(b) if so, the progress made in the construction of bridge till July, 1996, if not, the reasons for not starting the work so far;

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government for construction of the said bridge and the amount spent out of it so far;

(d) the amount provided by the State Government for the construction of the said bridge and whether that amount has been utilised and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the construction of the bridge connecting the two states is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Construction of the project has not started due to non-availability of funds with State Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) This will depend upon the priority attached to the work by the State Government.

Hostels in Delhi

4666. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of youth hostels in Delhi and their utility;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct more hostels for students in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) There is one Youth Hostel in Delhi, which is under the control of Youth Hostels Association of India. The hostel promotes youth travel and youth activity programmes.